

relationship between the two genera. In view of the relationship of *Fringilla* and the New World Emberizinae suggested by Tordoff (1954) it is necessary to consider briefly the plumage characters of the latter group. The plumage tends to be brown and heavily streaked, but this gives way to uniform colouring in some species. Species-specific markings are usually confined to the head and breast which are often boldly patterned. There are pale tips to the median and greater coverts in some species, but wing-bars formed by pale bases to flight feathers are absent. Rump colouring is not conspicuously different, and yellow pigment appears to be absent. There does not appear to be any reason to link *Fringilla* with this group on the basis of plumage characters.

The retention by *F. coelebs* of conspicuous plumage colouring in the mainland and its loss in isolate forms suggests that these colours have a valency as specific signals in regions where similar species are present. If this species had been derived from the American emberizids and had invaded the Palaearctic, it might be expected that it would retain characters which distinguished it from the cardueline finches and it would be extremely improbable that it would evolve a plumage extremely convergent with that of the genus *Carduelis*. Such a resemblance is, in this case, almost certainly evidence of close relationship, and from this evidence of plumage colour and pattern it is considered that the genus *Fringilla* is a part of the Old World finches of the family Fringillidae and that its plumage characters reveal a close affinity with the genus *Carduelis*.

Summary

Most related groups of species show common characters of plumage pattern and colour indicating their affinity. An examination of such characters in the genus *Carduelis* (including *Spinus*, *Chloris*, and *Hypocanthus*) and *Fringilla*, revealed that the typical characters of the first genus were also present in the second. *Fringilla* does not share the plumage pattern and colour characters of the New World Emberizinae, and it is considered that the present evidence helps to confirm the affinity of *Fringilla* with the Old World cardueline finches.

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A new race of *Lybius torquatus* from Tanzania

by J. G. WILLIAMS

Received 3rd November, 1965

Among a small collection of birds collected at South Ulanga, Eastern Region, Tanzania, by Mr. Elias Numpungu of Tanzania National Parks, are two specimens of a very distinct, undescribed race of *Lybius torquatus*, which I name

Lybius torquatus nampunju subsp. nov.

in honour of the collector.

Type: adult male, testes small. Locality South Ulanga, Eastern Region, Tanzania; altitude 2,000 feet; 28th November, 1964. Collector Mr. Elias Nampunju.

Description: Differs from all other races except *Lybius torquatus albigularis* in lacking all red in the plumage. Differs from *albigularis* in having the throat and ear-coverts uniform creamy-white, not black or grey flecked with white.

Measurements: exposed culmen 21; wing 82; tail 49; tarsus 22 mm.

Soft parts: iris brown; bill black; feet slate-grey.

Paratype: adult male, testes slightly enlarged, locality South Ulanga, Eastern Region, Tanzania; 27th November, 1964.

Measurements: exposed culmen 20; wing 84; tail 50; tarsus 22 mm.

The two specimens were collected in a fruiting fig tree in open woodland.

Type to be deposited in the British Museum (Natural History). Paratype deposited in collection of National Museum (formerly Coryndon Museum) Nairobi, Kenya.

A new cormorant from Uganda

by J. G. WILLIAMS

Received 3rd November, 1965

On 26th January, 1964, whilst visiting the Queen Elizabeth National Park, Western Uganda, with Mrs. Peter Curry, her son Mr. Patrick Curry and Mr. Bill Ryan, a number of cormorants in full breeding plumage closely resembling *Phalacrocorax carbo sinensis* were noticed among typical breeding plumaged White-necked Cormorants resting on a sand-bank at the Lake Edward mouth of the Kazinga Channel. Permission was granted by the Warden of the National Park for a pair of these birds to be collected.

The two specimens secured were an adult male and female, both in full breeding condition, the female having an unshelled egg in the oviduct. When compared with specimens of *P.c. sinensis* it was evident that the Lake Edward specimens differed sufficiently to be described as a new race of *Phalacrocorax carbo*. I have pleasure in naming this new cormorant

Phalacrocorax carbo patricki subsp. nov.

in honour of Patrick Curry who first noticed the new birds amongst a flock of White-necked Cormorants.

Type: Adult male: full breeding condition.

Locality: Kazinga Channel, Lake Edward, Western Uganda; 3,000 feet; 26th January, 1964.

Description: Differs from *P.c. sinensis* in having less extensive white plumes on the head and neck, and the cheeks and chin coffee-brown merging to brownish-white towards bill, not entirely whitish; fore-throat tinged brown.

Measurements and soft parts: exposed culmen 69; wing 332; tail 160; tarsus 60 mm.

Iris: deep sea green; skin around eye black with small turquoise-blue spots, most marked around eye; indistinct line of pale yellow below eye;